Murphysboro City Council Meeting May 12, 2015

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 12th day of May, 2015. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the council in prayer. Following the invocation, Mayor Stephens led the council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mayor Stephens apologized to Pastor Frye for not having him say the invocation. City Clerk Cottonaro sworn in the new council members: Barb Hughes, Russell Brown, John Erbes, Herb Voss and Tom Ridings. Mayor Stephens welcomed new members. Mayor Stephens then directed City Clerk Cottonaro to call the roll. The roll was called with the following

Present: Barb Hughes, Danny Bratton, Russell Brown, John Erbes, Bill Pierson,

Herb Voss, Gary McComb, Mark Costa, Tom Ridings

Absent: Gloria Campos

Mayor Stephens presented a Proclamation to Adam Fox who has completed a 2-1/2 year internship with the police department in conjunction with the options program at Brehm Preparatory School.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 council meeting and the special council meetings of April 27, 2015 and May 5, 2015. All aldermen received a copy of the minutes, for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Costa

Mayor called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

Council members questioned if we had put demolitions out for bid, if we are taking the low bid for demolitions, and the use of Schwebel Printing as well as Silkworm.

Motion: To approve the accounts payable, register #580, #581, and #582 through May 8, 2015, accounts receivable through May 8, 2015 and payroll through May 8, 2015. All aldermen received a copy of the accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman Hughes Second by Alderman McComb

Mayor called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

REQUESTS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Terry Ridings wished to voice a complaint about noise and the noise ordinance. Mayor Stephens indicated there had been several comments about the noise. He indicated we did have a noise ordinance however, the council does vote on various events and possible exceptions. Mayor Stephens questioned if 10 or 11 pm would be a reasonable time. Mr. Ridings just stated they tried to watch TV at 10 pm. and they could not hear their TV.

Chief Hollo informed the council regarding a report he presented as an over view of police department numbers to indicate how pro active the police department members are.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Public Safety Committee meeting of April 27, 2015

Attorney Heller stated we do have an ordinance in place that states no items can be on city sidewalks. He suggested that the council review this ordinance to allow more clarification.

Alderman Bratton inquired about the Jacket Factory. We were to pump it out and bill the owner. Frist time we pumped it out. The owner told Darrin the sump pump wouldn't work and the ditch would not flow. However, when we pumped it out the ditch did flow and when Darrin tired the sump pump it did work. Alderman Bratton stated we need to get the owner's attention. Mayor Stephen's stated we will get to a solution of the issue one way or other.

Mayor Stephens stated he will be assigning new chair assignments in the next week.

Motion: To approve the dog owned by Rhonda D. Myers to be a vicious dog.

Motion by Alderman Pierson Seconded by Alderman McComb

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

Budget and Finance Committee meeting of April 27, 2015.

Motion: To approve paying Accounts Payable Register #577 and #578 through April 25, 2015.

Motion by Alderman Costa Second by Alderman McComb

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Building and Grounds Committee meeting of April 27, 2015.

Motion: To approve repairing head stones up to an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Costa

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Community Relations Committee meeting of April 27, 2015.

Motion: To approve allowing citizens to bring their own drinks to the Town Center Park Sunset Concerts with the exception of glass containers. No glass containers are allowed.

Motion by Alderman Hughes Second by Alderman Costa

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote.

Ayes: Barb Hughes, Russell Brown, John Erbes, Bill Pierson, Herb Voss, Gary

McComb, Mark Costa, Tom Ridings

Nays: Dan Bratton **Motion Carried.**

Motion: To approve amending our ordinance to prohibiting those in the business of selling gas to obtaining a liquor license

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Brown

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Motion: To approve the appointment of Dorothy Lada to Tourism Commission.

Motion by Alderman Costa Second by Alderman McComb

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Motion: To approve the request of Cathy Creed and Everett Gariepy to use the Town Center Park on Thursday, May 28th from 5-7 pm, with \$100 refundable fee paid and application completed.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Bratton

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Alderman Bratton inquired about noise level and time frame allowed. After some discussion, Mayor Stephens stated time could change from 7-12 pm. to 7-11 pm for these two events and the council could have further discussion for future events.

Motion: To approve Brews Brothers Taproom requests for closure of Chestnut Street between 11th & 12th along with the adjacent parking lot in addition to a noise ordinance for the dates of Friday May 29th and June 6th from 7-11 pm.

Motion by Alderman Bratton Second by Alderman Brown

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Motion: To approve moving the May committee meetings to Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

Motion by Alderman Hughes Second by Alderman McComb

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Public Improvement Committee meeting of April 27, 2015.

Motion: To approve soliciting bids for city clean up dates of August 28th and 29th.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Hughes

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Motion: To approve enforcing our ordinance regarding trees being planted on city boulevards.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Pierson

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote.

Ayes: Barb Hughes, Russell Brown, Dan Bratton, Bill Pierson, Herb Voss, Gary

McComb, Mark Costa, Tom Ridings

Nays: John Erbes **Motion Carried.**

Alderman Pierson inquired who would be enforce this ordinance. After much discussion Mayor Stephens stated that we have an ordinance and the ability to use it. He suggested that aldermen walk their own ward and bring back to council what is a safety hazard.

Motion: To approve the purchase of property at 624 North 16th Street by Rick Runge with the stipulation that it will be torn down within a year.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Hughes

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Motion: To approve the property transfer of 1924 Hamilton Street to Habitat for Humanity.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Costa

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Public Works Committee meeting of April 27, 2015.

Alderman Pierson requested this issue be tabled until December when Nancy retires. He wants more information and wants to see where everything is going.

Motion: To table the action of moving the code enforcement office up to the administration building.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Costa

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Motion: To approve the Historic Preservation Commission request to certify our ordinance for the purposes of the Illinois Property Tax Assessment Freeze Program.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Hughes

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

Personnel Committee meeting of April 27, 2015.

Alderman Bratton state he thinks Darrin should have final say of who is hired. Questions arose regarding past part time hires and if they would come back; if they could just be full time when Sherrill retires. Alderman Brown stated he thought we should advertise for the job.

Motion: To approve hiring of summer help for the street department.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Bratton

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Motion: To approve advertising for applications for an assistant code enforcement officer.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Bratton

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

Alderman Hughes inquired if we could amend the recommendation to include putting the job out for advertisement if no one in the union is qualified or wants the job. Attorney Heller indicated yes.

Motion: To approve to put out for bid the position of water billing manager inside the bargaining union and advertise such position if inside request resulted in no candidate selected for the position.

Motion by Alderman Hughes Second by Alderman Bratton

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stephens:

Tom Ridings

Reminder that all Standing Committee Meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 26th.

Farmers Market will be Saturday morning; there are to be 11 vendors present.

Mayor stated he will be traveling to Springfield on the 21st as they will be debating the BBQ Capital Resolution in Springfield on that date.

Mayor Stephens stated he had talked with Harold Sheffer regarding consideration of alternate bids on the Lift Station Project. Mr. Sheffer stated there were a couple of adjustments on bids for the four lift stations which resulted in a deduct \$20,000 for 7th Street and \$20,000 for 20th Street. They can use a different type of pump which is equal but we do not need a chopper pump.

Since this issue was not on the agenda the council could not vote on it; however, Harold thought he could just forward to IEPA with a statement that the council will most likely approve. This issue should be scheduled for the next city council meeting. Any issues after this will be handled as change orders.

ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Nothing

Mark Costa

Nothing

Gary McComb

When are we going to issue tickets for blowing yard trash in streets?

Herb Voss Honored to assume seat and look forward to working with you

all.

Bill Pierson Welcome to new girl and new guy. Mayor Stephens informed

the council that he was appointing Alderman Pierson as Mayor

Pro-Tem.

John Erbes Honored to be serving.

Russell Brown Grass is two foot high on city property by his rental property.

Danny Bratton Welcome to new members. Suburban Drive-is there a problem

with water pressure there. Chief Swafford stated that was flow pressure not static pressure. Chief said it is adequate unless you want to put in a bigger line. 30 PSI is required. What is status of housing and hydrant installation? Mayor Stephens stated the worst hydrant was replaced and they were sent a bill for \$8500 (half the cost of all hydrants) and as of this date have not paid or responded. Suggestions were made to do one and send them a bill for half of the cost. Alderman Bratton stated he thinks they should pay up front before any work done; you owe us half before we install others. Mayor Stephens stated we have assured public safety by

Barb Hughes Welcome to new members

DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Ed Heller Nothing

Sandra Ripley Payroll information to complete and turn in to her.

Harold Sheffer Nothing

Steven Swafford Nothing

Brian Hollo Nothing...

Brian Manwaring Nothing

Ron Manwaring Nothing

Darrin Mills Nothing

Jim Stewart Nothing

Motion: To adjourn

Motion by Alderman Costa Second by Alderman McComb

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.